

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /122 W

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R 170610Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5511

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 2520

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS,PINT,TU,GR,CY

SUBJ: STATUS OF GREEK COMMUNITY IN ISTANBUL

REF: (A) ISTANBUL 2372; (B) THESSALONIKI 0548

SUMMARY: GREEK CONGEN ATHENASSIOU TOLD CONGENOFF  
SEPT. 16 THAT "EXODUS" OF GREEKS FROM ISTANBUL IS CONTINUING AT  
RATE OF ABOUT 50 - 70 PER DAY, PRIMARILY BY BUS. HE SAID  
"PERSECUTION" OF GREEKS CONTINUES AND HE SEES "NO FUTURE"  
FOR GREEK COMMUNITY IN TURKEY. HE SAID PRESENT GREEK  
COMMUNITY NOW NUMBERS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 10 TO 12 THOUSAND,  
COMPARED TO ESTIMATED 15 TO 20 THOUSAND TWO YEARS AGO. END SUMMARY

1. WITH REGARD "PERSECUTION" OF GREEKS, ATHENASSIOU SAID  
SAID GREEK RESIDENTS SUBJECT DAILY INSULT AND PROVOCATION  
FROM THE "DOORMAN, THE BUTCHER, THE TAXI DRIVER, ETC."  
THERE HAD BEEN "SOME" INSTANCES OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BUT HE  
DID NOT ELABORATE. HE ASSERTED THAT TURKISH NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
ORGANIZATION, MIT, HAS CAUSED SOME TURKISH FIRMS TO DISMISS  
GREEK EMPLOYEES AND THERE HAVE BEEN BOYCOTTS AGAINST GREEK-

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OWNED OR OPERATED SOTRES. HE SAID MANY SMALL SHOPKEEPERS HAVE

SOLD THEIR PROPERTIES AND GENERALLY THOSE ABLE TO DO SO ARE GETTING OUT. IN ADDITION ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PRESSURES HE SAID THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE FEAR OF POSSIBLE RECURRENCE OF MOB VIOLENCE SUCH AS OCCURRED IN 1955. ATHENASSIOU SAID HE THOUGHT COMMUNITY WOULD INEVITABLY CONTINUE DECLINE IN NUMBERS WITH THOSE REMAINING BEING PRIMARILY THE AGED AND INFIRM.

2. ATHENASSIOU NOTED BITTERLY THAT AT TIME OF LAUSANNE TREATY THERE WERE ABOUT 110,000 TURKS LIVING IN GREECE, AND ABOUT SAME NUMBER OF GREEKS IN ISTANBUL. HE SAID THERE ARE STILL 110,000 TURKS IN GREECE WHEREAS GREEKS IN ISTANBUL NOW NUMBER ONLY 10-12,000. HE SAID THERE ARE IN ATHENS ALONE ABOUT 45,000 GREEKS WHO WERE FORMERLY RESIDENT IN TURKEY. ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY EXODUS OF TURKS FROM THRACE DURING CYPRUS CRISIS, ATHENASSIOU SAID THAT WHILE GOG WOULD "NOT MIND" IF SEVERAL THOUSAND WANTED TO DEPART, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ANY SUCH MOVE.

3. ASKED IF HE THOUGHT NUMERICAL DECLINE OF GREEK POPULATION MIGHT EFFECT CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE HERE, ATHENASSIOU SAID ANY FUTURE DECISION BY GOT TO EXPEL PATRIARCHATE WOULD BE BASED PRIMARILY ON ITS JUDGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS. SMALL SIZE OF COMMUNITY MIGHT BE USED AS ONE ARGUMENT IN JUSTIFYING SUCH A MOVE, BUT WOULD NOT ITSELF BE DECISIVE.

4. COMMENT: ONE SOURCE CLOSE TO PATRIARCHATE HERE RECENTLY ESTIMATED THAT GREEK COMMUNITY MAY NUMBER NOT MUCH MORE THAN 6,000. WE SUSPECT CONGEN'S ESTIMATE IS NEARER THE MARK. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN FEW, IF ANY, INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST GREEK POPULATION HERE TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE IS, NOT SUPRISINGLY, MOOD OF UNEASE AND DEEP PESSIMISM IN GREEK COMMUNITY HERE. ATHENASSIOU'S COMMENTS ON US POLICY TOWARD CYPRUS AND US-GREEK RELATIONS BEING REPORTED BY MEMCON.  
MACE

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## Message Attributes

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